

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one of, a regional monitoring system with a plurality of spaced apart detectors for monitoring conditions in a region, a wireless communications repeating system, a building environmental control system, a lighting control system, a security system, a fuel distribution system, a petrochemical distribution system, a hazardous material distribution system, or a selected component associated with one of a selected system or subsystem;

a plurality of elements for monitoring ~~normal functional~~ operation of different portions of the at least one system each of the elements emits a first discontinuous signal in response to the respective portion of the at least one system exhibiting a normal operational mode and a second, different electrical signal in response to the respective portion for the at least one system exhibiting an abnormal operational mode; and

a common control unit coupled to the elements and responsive to ~~functional~~ operation ~~indicating indicia~~ the first and second signals received from at least some of the elements.

16. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15 including a graphical display coupled to and driven from the control unit thereby providing visual indicators of functional operation of the different portions of the at least one system.

17. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 16 where the control unit includes executable instructions for formatting the visual indicators.

18 - 30 (Canceled)

31. (New) An apparatus comprising:
at least one system selected from a class which includes at least a fire alarm system, an illumination control system, a heating ventilating air conditioning system, a security system, an electrical supply system, a gas supply system, a fluid supply system and a solid material supply system;
at least one monitoring module coupled to a selected portion of the system, the module monitors the operation of at least the selected portion of the system and determines if the selected portion is operating in accordance with a predetermined, expected operational criteria, the module including circuitry that generates periodic electrical signals in response to a determination that the selected portion is operating in accordance with the predetermined, expected operational criteria.

32. (New) An apparatus as in claim 31 which includes first circuitry which receives the periodic electrical signals and which provides an indicator thereof.

33. (New) An apparatus as in claim 32 where the first circuitry presents an indicium of normal operation of the selected portion in response to received periodic electrical signals.

34. (New) An apparatus as in claim 32 where the first circuitry presents an indicium of abnormal operation in response to a failure to receive periodic electrical signals.

35. (New) An apparatus as in claim 33 where the first circuitry presents the indicium by at least one of visually presenting a representation thereof, or, audibly presenting a representation thereof.

36. (New) An apparatus as in claim 31 where the periodic electrical signals generated by the module are in addition to operational electrical signals present in the portion of the system being monitored.

37. (New) An apparatus as in claim 36 where the system comprises a fire alarm system and the monitoring module monitors the operation thereof and generates the periodic electrical signals in response to normal operation thereof.

38. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37 which includes as a second system at least one of an illumination control system, a wireless repeating system, a heating ventilating air conditioning system and a security system; and

a second monitoring module coupled to a selected portion of the second system, the second module monitors the operation of at least the selected portion of the second system and determines if the selected portion of the second system is operating in accordance with a second predetermined, expected operating criteria, the second module including circuitry that generates periodic electrical signals in response to a determination that the selected portion of the second system is operating in accordance with the predetermined, expected operational criteria where the first circuitry presents an indicium of normal operation in response to received periodic electrical signals.

39. (New) An apparatus as in claim 33 which includes a plurality of monitoring modules, each of the modules is coupled to a respective portion of the system, each respective module monitors the operation of at least the selected portion of the system and determines if the

selected portion is operating in accordance with a predetermined, expected operational criteria, the module including circuitry that generates periodic electrical signals in response to a determination that the selected portion is operating in accordance with the predetermined, expected operational criteria.

40. (New) An apparatus as in claim 39 where monitoring modules can be selected from a class which includes at least a monitor of electrical current draw, a monitor of gas flow, a monitor of oil flow, a monitor of acid flow, a monitor of solvent flow and a monitor of coal feed.

41. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40 where the monitor of electric current responds to predetermined increases in current draw, the monitor of gas flow responds to predetermined increases in gas flow, the monitor of oil flow responds to predetermined increases in oil flow, the monitor of acid flow responds to predetermined increases in acid flow, the monitor of solvent responds to predetermined increases in solvent flow and the monitor of coal feed responds to a predetermined variation from an expected coal feed.